(d) Two vessels of 19478 DWT were purchased during 1990-91 by Public and Private Sector Shipping Companies.

Curtailment of regular DTC services due to introduction of green line services

2583. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to the refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 974 given in the Rajya Sabha on 2nd December, 1991, and state:

(a) whether introduction of Green Line Service in DTC has been done after curtailing regular trips of a service of a route offered to Green Line Service;

(b) whether such steps are to make operation of Green Line Service a success; and

(c) if so, the details of steps to be taken to restore curtailed trips of regular services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Road accident near Bombay

2584. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there was a serious accident involving a Tanker on the National High way near Dhanu in Thane District on the outskirts of Bombay recently;

(b) if so, the exact details thereof and how many persons were killed ; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to see that such type of accidents do not take place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) On 22nd November, 1991 Tanker No. MTT 9168 carrying 14,000 litres of Natural Gasoline Liquid (NGL) belonging to Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. met with an accident in the vicinity of Mondhavan Khind Village in Thane district of Maharashtra State. The NGL was being transported from ONGC Hazira (Gujarat) to Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. at Chembur, Bombay. Due to the accident, the NGL started flowing out. The residents of Mendhavan Khind and nearby villages gathered at the spot to collect the liquid thinking it to be Kerosene. In the meanwhile, a Fiat Car No. BLN 5347 which was passing along the road to Ahmedabad came to a halt near the tanker. While re-starting this car a possible spark from its silencer might have led to the NGL catching fire. So far 85 people have died and 62 are injured. Two private cars and the tanker were burnt.

Transportation by road tankers of flammable liquids coming under the the purview of the Petroleum Rule, 1976 and of compressed gases covered under Static and Mobile Pressure Vessels (unfired) Rules, 1981 is done under licences issues by the Department of Explosives. The petroleum Rules, 1976 indicate the details of specifications of such vehicles and the requirements for their safe operation. Under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, the trucks carrying dangerous goods and chemcials are required to be labelled and also to indicate the nature of the goods and casts a responsibility upon the owner to ensure that the driver is given all the relevant information in writing in relation to the dangerous or hazardous goods entrusted to him for transport and to staisfy himself that such driver has sufficient understanding of the nature of such goods and the nature of the risks involved in the trasport of such goods and is capable of taking appropriate action in case of an emergency.

The Oil companies also give training to their contractors and drivers regarding safe carriage of inflammable petroleum products.

Improving National Highway between Bombay and Vapi

2585. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the national highway between Bombay and Vapi is very narrow;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there are frequent traffic jams on this highway; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to improve this section of the highway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b) The existing

National Highway No. 8 between Bombay and Vap is already having two-lane carriageway, except a strech of 3.00 Km near Bombay which is four-lane. The present volume of traffic is more than the capacity of the road.

(c) Annual Programme 1991-92 includes provision for 4-laning of further 65 Km length of National Highway 8 between Bombay and Vapi subject to availability of funds and overall priorities.

Seventh Cargo Berth at Kandla Port

2586. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the work relating to construction of 7th Cargo Berth at Kandla Port is in process ;

(b) if so, what is the amount of money that has been spent on this so far ;

(c) whether the work was to be completed in the month of October, 1991; and

(d) what is the extent of work that still remains to be carried out and the reasons for the delay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An amount of Rs. 2376 lakhs has been spent upto the and of November, 1991.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The work amounting to Rs. 859 lakhs including the work relating to dredging at a cost of Rs. 589 lakhs still remains to be carried out. The works have been delayed on account of failure of 87 piles during execution.

Funds for the National Highways

2587. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BERLA : Will the Ministr of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to financial constraints the Government's ambitious programmes for the development and maintenance of national highways in the country during the Eighth Five Year Plan period have received severe blow ;

(b) if so, the details of the allocations made during the current plan period for the development and maintenance of national highways ?

(c) whether a large number of important national highways could not be taken up due to financial constraints; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to make available funds for the development and maintenance of national Highways ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b) Since the 8th Five Year Plan is yet to be finalised and outlays are not known, it is too early to assess its impact on the development of National Highway During the current Annual Plan 1991-92, there is provision of Rs. 446 crores for development of National Highways in the budget estimates.

(c) and (d) Do not arise, in view of non-finalisation of the 8th Five Year Plan.

Request to treat shipping ndustry as rxport oriented Industry

2588. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian National Shipowners Association has underlined the need to expand the domestic fleet in order to raise the share in the country's overseas cargo ;

(b) whether the INSA has also urged Government to recognise shipping as export industry since the payment for overseas cargo is done in hard currency;

(c) whether Government propose to liberalise shipping financing rules and regulations to help shipping industry to expand its fleet; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) A new Shipping Finance Package is being evolved, the main elements of which include permission to shipowners to use the sale proceeds for fresh acquisition; permission for overseas equity to be used for fresh acquisitions; raising the promoter's contribution for ship purchase; provision of Rupee loan on market related terms; permission for Joint Venture; cross border leasing